

Claims:

1 1. A mobile switching center (MSC), comprising:
2 a processor;
3 an internal bus coupled to the processor; and
4 a memory for storing computer instructions, which
5 computer instructions define operational logic of the MSC and
6 more particularly, logic for receiving and responding to a
7 request by a called party user of a mobile station for a
8 message to be played to a calling party to advise the calling
9 party that the called party will be taking the call shortly.

1 2. The MSC of claim 1 wherein the computer
2 instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC to prompt
3 an IVR to play a specified message to the calling party.

1 3. The MSC of claim 2 wherein the computer
2 instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC to place
3 the calling party on hold.

1 4. The MSC of claim 2 wherein the computer
2 instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC place the
3 calling party on hold until the MSC receives a ready
4 indication from the called party.

1 5. The MSC of claim 2 wherein the computer
2 instructions further define logic to prompt the MSC place the
3 calling party on hold until a specified amount of time has
4 elapsed.

1 6. The MSC of claim 5 wherein the specified amount of
2 time is less than one minute.

1 7. The MSC of claim 5 wherein the specified amount of
2 time is approximately equal to twenty seconds.

1 8. The MSC of claim 2 wherein the computer
2 instructions define logic to complete the call setup and, as
3 soon as the call is setup, prompting the IVR to play the
4 specified message.

1 9. A system for connecting a calling party to a called
2 party, comprising:

3 circuitry including logic for receiving and interpreting
4 a call request from a calling party;

5 circuitry including logic for determining the identity
6 of a communications node to which a call set up signal is to
7 be routed as a part of establishing a call between the called
8 and the calling parties; and

9 circuitry including logic for responding to a select
10 indication made upon a called party phone, which select
11 indication is a request for a specified message to be played
12 to the calling party to advise the calling party that the
13 called party will be taking the call shortly.

1 10. The system of claim 9 wherein the circuitry
2 including logic for responding further includes logic for
3 responding to a select indication that the called party is
4 ready to take the call.

1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the circuitry
2 responds by connecting the call upon received the select
3 indication that the called party is ready to take the call.

1 12. The system of claim 9 wherein the select indication
2 for a specified message to be played is received in the form
3 of DTMF tones.

1 13. The system of claim 9 wherein the select indication
2 for a specified message to be played is received in the form
3 of a select DTMF tone, which select DTMF tone must be
4 received within a specified time frame triggered by on of
5 receiving an "off hook" indication or, in the case of a
6 wireless network, a call acceptance indication.

1 14. The system of claim 9 wherein the select indication
2 for a specified message to be played is received in the form
3 of a defined signal within a defined response signal.

1 15. The system of claim 9 wherein the circuitry further
2 includes logic to cause the call to be connected immediately
3 after receiving the select indication that is a request for a
4 specified message to be played to the calling party.

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1 16. A method for connecting a call placed by a calling
2 party to a called party, comprising:

3 receiving an indication that a call is to be setup with
4 the called party;

5 receiving an indication of the called party number;

6 determining a serving node for the called party;

7 transmitting call set up signals to the serving node;

8 responding to a called party response by triggering an
9 IVR to play a select message to the calling party to advise
10 the calling party that the called party will be taking the
11 call shortly.

1 17. The method of claim 16 further including the step
2 of connecting the call without waiting for a ready indication
3 to connect the call.

1 18. The method of claim 16 further including the step
2 of waiting for a ready indication transmitted by the called
3 party phone prior to connecting the call.

1 19. The method of claim 16 wherein the call is
2 connected after a specified period of time has elapsed since
3 the called party response including a request was received.

1 20. The method of claim 16 wherein the called party
2 response including a request is received in the form of a
3 select DTMF tone within a specified period of time since the
4 transmission of a call setup signal to the called party
5 phone.

1 21. The method of claim 16 further comprising the step
2 of advising the calling party of a sequence of steps that the
3 calling party may take to leave a message.

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1 22. The method of claim 16 further including the step
2 of re-entering into an alert mode of operation.

1 23. The method of claim 22 wherein the step of re-
2 entering into an alert mode of operation occurs only upon
3 activation by the calling party!

24. The method of claim 22 wherein the step of re-
entering into an alert mode of operation occurs automatically
after the expiration of a specified amount of time.